

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action mailed August 11, 2004, the Examiner contends that Applicant claims *six* distinct inventions in the above-identified United States Patent Application namely:

Species 1: Figs. 2-3B;

Species 2: Figs 4A-B;

Species 3: Fig 5A;

Species 4: Fig. 5B;

Species 5: Fig. 5C; and

Species 6: Fig. 5D.

Thus, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, the Examiner requires Applicant to restrict his Application to one of the alleged six inventions. In compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicant elects Species 1 as identified by the Examiner and as shown in Figures 2-3B. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3 and claims 16-18 read upon Species 1 as shown in Figures 2-3B.

Thus, Applicant hereby elects to go forward with the prosecution of claims 1-3 and claims 16-18 of Species 1 as shown in Figures 2-3B. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claims 4-15 and claims 19-30 of Species 2-6, without prejudice, in order to comply with the restriction requirement. Reexamination and reconsideration of this case is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant requests examination of the elected claims.
Examination at the Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: 9/28/2004

By



Eric T King

Reg. No. 44,188

Tel.: (714) 557-3800 (Pacific Coast)

Attachments

12400 Wilshire Boulevard, Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8A)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

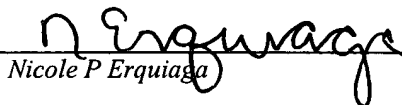
MAILING

FACSIMILE

☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service
as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:
Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

☐ transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and
Trademark Office.

Date: 9/28/2004



Nicole P Erquiaga

9/28/2004

Date